

Shoreline Master Program
SAG Meeting October 29, 2008

Caucus Representatives

John Umberger- Property Owners

Jerry Barnes – Agriculture

Raleigh Chinn – Business/recreation

Lee Bernheisel – Environment / Conservation

Absent Jon Wyss – Natural Resources

Absent Chris Johnson – City of Okanogan

Absent George Brady – Town of Pateros

Absent Chris Branch – Cities of Tonasket and Oroville

Dolores Castillo – Colville Confederated Tribes

Vicky Welch – Methow Watershed Council

Dave Acheson – Town of Winthrop

Absent Ralph Malone - City of Omak

Absent Sharon Brown – Town of Brewster

Alternate for Environment/Conservation: Jason Paulson

Alternate for City of Okanogan: Craig Nelson

Guests: Rocky Devon, Stan Porter

Staff: Angie Hubbard, Okanogan County; Jeremy Pratt, ENTRIX, Inc. (facilitator); Kurt Danison, Sandra Strieby and Sarah Schrock, Highlands Associates, Clynda Case, DOE.

Explain why 200' is needed to preserve ecological function in the shoreline area.

Jurisdiction extends 200' from the Shoreline Management Act. The upland areas that extend 200'-300' from the shore provided information that can have impacts on the riparian zone.

John U-Okanogan has been living with unjust rules for the shoreline area for some time. We do not need a 200' setback from the shoreline. Rip rap is good for fish.

Rivers move back and forth over periods of time. Harding of the bank by rip rap and other means translates that energy downstream. This will impact the stream somewhere else.

Stan Porter and Rocky Devon would like to be more involved in this process. They will be channeling their recommendations and comments through John Umberger for the SAG meetings. They are always welcome to send comments and suggestions directly to Okanogan County as well.

Jerry Barnes-At the neighborhood group meeting for the Comprehensive Plan, Palmer Lake was concerned because they had not been notified of the Shoreline Master Program Update.

ENTRIX Inc. has done an inventory and analysis of the current ecological function of the shoreline. The Department of Ecology had some disagreements on the methodology used by ENTRIX Inc. Ecology did a multivariate statistical analysis on the data used by ENTRIX. They differed on roughly 15% of the scores for the analysis units. The Technical Advisory Group met today and decided to have two meetings, one for the Methow and one for the Okanogan basins. The Methow meeting would involve the Methow Restoration Council (MRC) which is composed of a variety of agency people. The Okanogan meeting would involve those that participated in the Okanogan Sub basin Plan technical team. The two groups will sit down with the scores using their knowledge of the ground decide which score does indeed represent what is occurring on the ground in that location.

Lee-Science is not the only parameter. Do not forget about aesthetics, navigability, visual, etc. The environmental community does not like using current baseline conditions. We need a definition of baseline conditions in the draft.

Jeremy-no net loss is the real issue. This issue is statewide. You cannot say that putting in a condo will create no net loss. However, you will need to mitigate for that condo in order to achieve no net loss. This will take place on a case by case basis.

Lee-where do you offset the loss of ecological function.

There is an onsite preference within the watershed.

Lee-the environmental community is not happy with mitigation plans. Go back to the Shoreline Management Act. This act is not intended to stop development but it is intended to protect the shoreline environment. No net loss is very confusing and somewhat subjective.

Clynda-email me some mitigation plans that we could use.

Jerry-we need to use what is happening today for the baseline condition of the shoreline. We cannot go back to a pristine natural condition.

Craig Nelson-I agree with Jerry that we should use the baseline condition of today. Human effects have been around for a long time. The Okanogan River has areas of hardened bank stabilization causing sediments to move

downstream. Soft stabilization is good. We should try this now but if an engineer determines that something different is needed we will have to use it.

John U-we had 5 environmental designations now we have 10. It seems like the SMP is more restrictive now. We need to keep farmers but they need to be able to make a living.

Next meeting January 28th, 2009.